

but I do remember that at the time of my examination by the medical gentleman they tried to convince me I suffered from such delusions.

# MORGAN MIGHT HAVE HAD HIM SHADOWED.

Q. Have you any reason to believe Mr. Morgan or Mr. Belmont would do anything on your part to kill you? A. Not to kill me, but it is a mystery in business to have a rival followed and shadowed by detectives to see whom they met, what offices they visited and to try to get something on them. My brother did tell me suspicious persons were following me, and they might have been sent to watch me by Morgan and Belmont.

Q. Do you believe you have any Divine commission to perform in this world? A. Perhaps every person has something in view in this world, but I have no fault to find with Providence. Q. Do you hear mysterious voices which the attorneys have told of, and which no one else hears? A. No. Robin, examining me, said he believed he had incurred the enmity of J. Pierpont Morgan by financing a company to harness Niagara Falls for electricity. "I also hit Belmont a severe blow with my South Shore Traction Company," Robin continued, "and I know he was my business rival."

# BOASTS OF HIS WORK FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

Robin declared boastfully that he had furnished the District Attorney all the evidence upon which William J. Cummings and Joseph B. Reichmann of the Carnegie Trust Company, were convicted.

"No insane man could have done that," he added.

Q. Mr. Robin, how much money did you have when you started in life in this city? A. I had less than \$500.

Q. And you built that up into a fortune? A. Yes. Into a fortune of \$500,000.

Robin said it was true he was personally indebted to the Carnegie Trust Company, the sum of \$250,000 at the time he declared he was forced by Hyde to loan \$100,000 of the money of the Northern Bank to the Carnegie Trust Company.

Q. Why did you not repay this loan and thus make up the trust company's shortage, instead of lending \$100,000 of the funds of the Northern Bank? A. I offered to do so if Messrs. Cummings and Reichmann would repay to the Northern Bank the money they owed my institution.

# ROBIN UNDER FIRE OF CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Then Robin was turned over to Max D. Steuer for cross-examination as to his sanity. He declared that he had not personally examined William J. Cummings and Joseph B. Reichmann, to represent him immediately after his arrest, nor did he believe Mr. Jerome to interpose the plea of insanity. Q. Were you then in full possession of your faculties? A. I was no more in possession of my faculties than any other man who was under the influence of drugs and was suffering from the effects of the financial calamity that had just come upon me.

Robin said he had quarreled with Jerome about the insanity plea.

"Yes," he said, "Jerome told me to set up and yell about it so I would appear insane."

Q. Did Mr. Jerome instigate you to feign insanity? A. No, sir.

Q. Did Mr. Jerome instigate you to say you were the natural son of the Czar of Russia? A. No.

Q. Did he instigate you to all the delusions you mentioned to the alienist? A. No, sir; he did not.

Q. Did he instigate you to say Nicola Tesla, the electrician, got \$250,000 a year from J. Pierpont Morgan to try to kill you by electricity? A. I do not recall that Mr. Tesla was ever retained for that duty.

Q. Then if, months and months later, during your insanity proceedings, you still said you heard that mysterious "voice," your statement was an absolute fabrication? A. Yes, it was an absolute fabrication—call it a lie if you so please.

Mr. Steuer proceeded to read to the witness statements he had made months after his "illness," under oath, in which he said he still was under the control of the mysterious "voice."

Robin, nodding in his chair, said he could not recall his previous testimony about the "voice" and Steuer asked a question after question from the previous records, quoting Robin's wild ravings about the "voice" and its control over him. Robin flushed, but still maintained he could not recall any of these wanderings which he uttered months after the time he had just sworn he had ceased to hear the compelling "voice."

Justice Goff finally called a halt to Mr. Steuer's questions by saying that since Robin could not "recall" he could not be questioned further upon that specific testimony.

Mr. Steuer, unabashed, took up the records of another of Robin's examinations, made by Dr. Robert Collier, and asked a question after question from the previous records, quoting Robin's wild ravings about the "voice" and its control over him. Robin flushed, but still maintained he could not recall any of these wanderings which he uttered months after the time he had just sworn he had ceased to hear the compelling "voice."

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Q. Did you believe that William A. Nash, President of the Corn Exchange Bank and member of the Clearing House Committee, had fired a shot at you from an automobile? A. Yes, that I recall.

# BELIEVED BIG FINANCIERS COMBINED AGAINST HIM.

Q. Did you believe J. Pierpont Morgan, John Jacob Astor, J. Pierpont Morgan and others of the Standard Oil crowd—particularly the electrical powers—combined against you because you tried to harness Niagara Falls for electrical power? A. Yes, I believed that.

Mr. Steuer plodded on, getting Robin to say he did not recall any of the delusions to which the defense's alienist testified yesterday.

Q. Were you acquainted with Nicola Tesla, the electrical expert? A. I had met him in some way.

Q. Did you believe Mr. Morgan employed him? A. Yes.

Q. To kill you? A. I do not now so believe. I do not believe Mr. Morgan knows of my existence.

Robin refused to be pinned down to a "yes" or "no" answer as to whether he believed the "delusions" in the hope that he might be found insane and thus escape trial for stealing from the Washington Savings Bank, declaring he was in no condition at that time to recall what he was doing.

"I can only say," he went on, "that I was possessed of a flow of language that was accompanied by a poisoned condition."

Q. If you made these answers before Justice Swann, when you were on trial as to your sanity, was that the result of instructions you had received from any one? A. I cannot now answer that question, for I do not recall.

Q. Were you trying to deceive the jury so you would be found insane? A. I cannot recall.

# NOT WILLING TO GIVE NAME OF FATHER.

Q. Are you now prepared to tell this jury your father's name? A. I can, but I am not willing to do so. (The alienist had sworn Robin claimed his father was the Czar of Russia.)

Q. Mr. Robin, have you ever received a severe blow on the head? A. Yes. In 1881 I received a blow on the head from a poker in the hands of the charming lady you have traveling about as my mother.

Robin admitted he had suffered from insomnia as a result of this "blow," but denied that it had affected his brain.

Justice Goff then took the witness in hand.

Q. When you pleaded guilty, did you know what you were doing? A. I knew I was pleading guilty to an indictment, but I did not know the full purport of the crime with which I was charged. I simply trusted to the good faith of the Court. I did not care what was going on. I did not deem myself guilty of any crime. I was a sick man, when I was placed on trial and pleaded guilty. I told the Court I was a sick man, and that I told me I had to go on with it. As that time I do not believe because of my physical condition, I was in my right mind.

Q. You were pleading guilty before I pleaded guilty? A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you feel guilty, and he said he would make the fullest investigation before he sentenced me.

"Do you see," interrupted Mr. Steuer, "that Judge Seabury accepted a plea of guilty from you after you had told him you were not guilty?"

"You are using words into my mouth," shouted Robin. "What I said to Judge Seabury that I did not 'feel' that I was guilty."

Q. HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY READING ABOUT INSANITY.

Robin admitted that he had been reading monographs on insanity, and that these readings may have had some influence on his mind.

Q. You were then sent back to the Tombs and Dr. Ira O. Tracy was called by the defense in rebuttal. Dr. Tracy connected the evidence of the insanity with Robin, during which he made a physical and mental examination of the witness.

"I found no evidence of mental disease," said Dr. Tracy. "I found him to be perfectly sane."

Q. Did you then read the monograph on insanity by John R. Stanchfield, Dr. Tracy said Robin had not admitted to him that he was a sufferer from epilepsy from childhood.

"But," said the alienist, "that would not change my opinion that Robin is now sane."

Q. What do you regard as the epileptic "circle"? A. I never heard of it.

Q. You are not acquainted with it? A. I am not acquainted with it, but I am not the period before and after each epileptic attack known in all medical books as the epileptic "circle."

"Not that I know," said the alienist. Q. Is not Dr. Louise Rabonovitch, Robin's sister, an alienist in the same Long Island institution with which you are connected? asked the lawyer.

The doctor was not allowed to answer. Dr. Tracy admitted that if Robin had really been possessed of the delusions testified to by other alienists, then the bank wrecker showed symptoms of paranoia. "But," the doctor went on, "from his examination on the witness stand Robin was not at all paranoid."

Then Assistant District Attorney Clarke offered technical evidence to show that Hyde, as City Chamberlain, had deposited city funds in the Northern Bank, a subsidiary of the Carnegie Trust Company. The vouchers were marked for identification.

# STATE MAKES DIRECT ATTACK ON HYDE'S ALIBI.

Thomas F. Murphy, assistant Postmaster of New York City, was called by the State to attack Hyde's alibi.

Q. Did you, on Aug. 22, 1910, see Robin? A. Yes, in his office in the Times Building. It was at 5 in the afternoon. I was with him from 11 o'clock in the morning until 1 o'clock in the afternoon. We had gone to his apartments about 6 o'clock and about 6:30 o'clock he was called to the telephone. Then he excused himself from me, saying he had to go downtown. We left the apartment in the Cafe Beaux Arts on West Fourth street and took a taxi cab. In it we went to the Carnegie Trust Company. He went in alone, but came out in a short time with another man and walked away. This was just about 7:45 in the evening. He returned to the Carnegie Trust Company about 8:15 o'clock. P. M.

Robin, on the stand, had fixed these times as the time of the meeting in Hyde's office, when he swore, Hyde forced him to borrow the Northern Bank, to lend \$100,000 to the Carnegie Trust Company. Hyde, his wife and fourteen-year-old son set up an alibi, swearing they had been at home in the Roosevelt Hotel, at 7:30 o'clock on that evening. Hyde swore he had met Robin, Cummings and Reichmann in his office at 5:30. Murphy swore that at 5:30 Robin was in his own apartment in Portlich street and that he could not have reached Hyde's Wall street office before 7:45 o'clock P. M. At this hour, Hyde swore, he was at dinner on Long Island.

There was a bitter fight on the part of the defense to keep out of the record the conversation between Robin and Murphy on the night in question, the State seeking to set up that Robin, at 8:15 o'clock, told Murphy he had just come from Hyde's office.

ROBIN TOLD MURPHY ABOUT A "GREAT" DEAL.

Justice Goff permitted Murphy to repeat the conversation he had with Robin that night, to show, he said, the credibility of Robin's story on the witness stand.

"Mr. Robin told me he had just come from Mr. Hyde's office," said Murphy, "and that he had pulled off a 'great deal.'"

Under cross-examination by Mr. Steuer, Mr. Murphy went into detail as to all their movements on the night the loan was said to have been forced by Hyde deposit.

Murphy admitted that he himself is under indictment in connection with the failure of the Washington Savings Bank, which he was a trustee. He said Robin had gotten into that institution and had him made a trustee. The assistant postmaster was put through a grueling cross-examination as to his ability to remember that the trip with Robin was made on the evening of Aug. 22, 1910, when he could not remember the day or month he went before the Grand Jury to tell his story.

Frank J. Grant, former President of the Northern Bank, was called to tell of the meeting of the bank's trustees on the morning of Aug. 23, 1910, when Robin first told his story of the night meeting in Hyde's office. By this the State hoped to show that Robin's story on that day was the same one he told on the morning of Aug. 23.

On cross-examination Grant admitted that he, too, had been indicted on the charge of concealing a loan in the Northern Bank, and that he had never been tried.

William T. Young, a trustee of the Northern Bank, declared he, too, was at the meeting Robin called to consider the loan of \$100,000 to the Carnegie Trust Company, and that Robin's story then was the same as that he told on the witness stand in the Hyde trial. He admitted that Robin had told him that he loan was a good one, but it would help the Northern Bank, that good collateral would be received, and that the bank would probably receive a \$100,000 loan.

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